

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Chewing gum comprising at least one biodegradable polymer and chewing gum ingredients, wherein said chewing gum ingredients are selected from the group consisting of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agents, active ingredients, fillers, and mixtures thereof; and wherein said chewing gum contains from about 0.01 to less than about 2.0 weight percent water by weight of the chewing gum.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum contains less than 1.0 weight percent water by weight of the chewing gum.
4. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum contains less than 0.75 weight percent water by weight of the chewing gum.
5. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum contains less than 0.2 weight percent water by weight of the chewing gum.
6. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein at least one biodegradable polymer is a polyester polymer obtained by the polymerization of one or more cyclic esters by ring-opening and where at least one of the cyclic esters is selected from the group consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates and mixtures thereof.
7. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer is a polyester copolymer obtained by the polymerization of two or more cyclic esters by ring-opening and where at least one of the cyclic

esters is selected from the group consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates and mixtures thereof.

8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the lactones are chosen from the group consisting of ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, γ -butyrolactone, β -propiolactone, and mixtures thereof; and wherein the lactones are optionally substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atom along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom.
10. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 7, wherein the cyclic carbonate is selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, or 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl, propylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4, 6-dimethyl-1, 3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethyl trimethylene carbonate, 1',3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.
11. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of water containing sweeteners or softeners.
12. (Previously presented) Chewing according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one low hygroscopic softener or sweetener.
13. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 12, wherein the at least one low hygroscopic softener[s] or sweetener comprises powdered erythritol.
14. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise flavoring agents.

15. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said flavoring agents comprise natural and synthetic flavorings in the form of natural vegetable components, essential oils, essences, extracts, powders, including acids.
16. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.01 to about 30 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum.
17. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said chewing gum comprises flavoring agents in an amount of 0.2 to about 4 wt %, said percentage being based on the total weight of the chewing gum.
18. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said flavoring agents comprise water soluble ingredients.
19. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 18, wherein said water soluble ingredients comprise acids.
20. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 14, wherein said flavoring agents comprise water insoluble ingredients.
21. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise sweeteners.
22. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 21, wherein said sweeteners comprise bulk sweeteners.
23. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 22, wherein the chewing gum comprises bulk sweeteners in the amount of about 5 to about 95% by weight of the chewing gum.
24. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 21, wherein said sweeteners comprise high intensity sweeteners.

25. (Currently amended) Chewing gum according to claim 24, wherein the high intensity sweeteners comprise sucralose, aspartame, salts of acefulfame, ~~or~~ alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizin, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, ~~sterv~~ioside, alone or in combination.
26. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 24, wherein the chewing gum comprises high intensity sweeteners in an amount of about 0 to about 1% by weight of the chewing gum.
27. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one softener.
28. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 27, wherein the at least one softener comprises tallow, hydrogenated tallow, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, cocoa butter, glycerol, monostearate, glycerol triacetate, lecithin, mono-, di- and triglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, fatty acids, stearic acid, palmitic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, waxes, poly glycol esters or mixtures thereof.
29. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 27, wherein the chewing gum comprises softeners in the amount of about 0 to about 18% by weight of the chewing gum.
30. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum ingredients comprise active ingredients.
31. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 30, said active ingredients selected from the group consisting of Acetaminophen, Acetylsalicylic acid, Buprenorphine, Bromhexin, Celcoxib, Codeine, Diphenhydramin, Diclofenac, Etoricoxib, Ibuprofen, Indometacin, Ketoprofen, Lumiracoxib, Morphine, Naproxen, Ooxycodon, Parecoxib, Piroxicam, Rofecoxib, Tenoxicam, Tramadol, Valdecocib, Calciumcarbonat, Magaldrate, Disulfiram, Bupropion, Nicotine, Azithromycin,

Clarithromycin, Clotrimazole, Erythromycin, Tetracycline, Garansetron, Ondansetron, Prometazin, Tropisetron, Brompheniramine, Ceterizin, Ieco-Ceterizin, Chlorcyclizine, Chlorpheniramin, Chlorphemiramin, Difenhdramine, Doxylamine, Fenofenadin, Guaifenesin, Loratidin, des-Loratidin, Phenyltoloxamine, Promethazin, Pyridamine, Terfenadin, Troxerutin, Methyldopa, Methylphenidate, Benzalcon, Chloride, Benzeth, Chloride, Cetylpyrid, Chloride, Chlorhexidine, Ecabet-sodium, Haloperidol, Allopurinol, Colchicine, Theophylline, Propanolol, Prednisolone, Prednisone, Fluoride, Urea, Miconazole, Actot, Glibenclamide, Glipizide, Metformin, Miglitol, Repaglinide, Rosiglitazone, Apomorfin, Cialis, Sildenafil, Vardenafil, Diphenoxylate, Simethicone, Cimetidine, Famotidine, Ranitidine, Ratinidine, cetirizin, Loratadine, Aspirin, Benzocaine, Dextrometorphan, Ephedrine, Pheylpropanolamine, Pseudoephedrine, Cisapride, Domperidone, Metoclopramide, Acyclovir, Dioctylsulfosucc., Phenolphthalein, Almotriptan, Eletriptan, Ergotamine, Migea, Naratriptan, Rixatriptan, Sumatriptan, Zolmitriptan, Aluminum salts, Calcium salts, Ferro salts, Silver salts, Zinc-salte, Amphotericin B., Chlorhexidine, Miconazole, Triamcinolonacetone, Melatonin, Phenobarbital, Caffeine, Benzodiazepine, Hydroxyzine, Meprobamate, Phenothiazine, Buclizine, Brometazine, Cinnarizine, Cyclizine, Difenhydramine, Dimenhydrinate, Cuflomedil, Amphetamine, Caffeine, Ephedrine, Orlistat, Phenylephedrine, Phenylpropanolamine, Pseudoephedrine, Sibutramine, Ketoconazole, Nitroglycerin, Nystatin, progesterone, Testosterone, vitamin B12, Vitamin C, Vitamin A, Vitamin D, Vitamin E, Pilocarpin, Aluminumaminoacetate, Cimetidine, Esomeprazole, Famotidine, Lansoprazole, Magnesium oxide, Nizatide and Ratinidine and mixtures thereof.

32. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum is substantially free of non-biodegradable polymers.

33. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 32, wherein the least one biodegradable polymer is a polyester polymer obtained by the polymerization of at least two or more cyclic esters selected from the group consisting of glycolides, lactides, lactones, cyclic carbonates and mixtures thereof.

34. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 33, wherein said lactones are chosen from the group consisting of ϵ -caprolactone, δ -valerolactone, γ -butyrolactone, β -propiolactone and mixtures thereof; and wherein the lactones are optionally substituted with one or more alkyl or aryl substituents at any non-carbonyl carbon atom along the ring, including compounds in which two substituents are contained on the same carbon atom.

35. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 33, wherein the cyclic carbonate is selected from the group consisting of trimethylene carbonate, 5-alkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, 5,5-dialkyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, or 5-alkyl-5-alkyloxycarbonyl-1,3-dioxan-2-one, ethylene carbonate, 3-ethyl-3-hydroxymethyl, propylene carbonate, trimethylolpropane monocarbonate, 4, 6-dimethyl-1,3-propylene carbonate, 2,2-dimethylene carbonate, 1,3-dioxepan-2-one and mixtures thereof.

36. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 6, wherein the polyester polymer is selected from the group consisting of: poly (L-lactide); poly (D-lactide); poly (D,L-lactide); poly (mesolactide); poly (glycolide); poly (trimethylenecarbonate); poly (epsilon-caprolactone); poly (L-lactide-co-D,L-lactide); poly (L-lactide-co-meso-lactide); poly (L-lactide-co-glycolide); poly (L-lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate); poly (L-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); poly (D, L-lactide-co-meso-lactide); poly (D, L-lactide-co-glycolide); poly (D, -lactide-co-trimethylenecarbonate); poly (D,L-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); poly (meso-lactide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); poly (glycolide-cotrimethylenecarbonate); poly (glycolide-co-epsilon-caprolactone); and mixtures thereof.

37. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler.

38. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 37, wherein the chewing gum comprises filler in an amount of about 0 to about 50% by weight of the chewing gum.

39. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum comprises at least one coloring agent.
40. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the chewing gum is coated with an outer coating.
41. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 40, wherein the outer coating is a hard coating.
42. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 41, wherein the hard coating is a coating selected from the group consisting of a sugar coating and a sugarless coating and a combination thereof.
43. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 41, wherein the hard coating comprises 50 to 100% by weight of a polyol selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, maltitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, lactitol, isomalt, and mixtures thereof.
44. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 40, wherein the outer coating is an edible film comprising at least one component selected from the group consisting of an edible film-forming agent and a wax.
45. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 44, wherein the film-forming agent is selected from the group consisting of a cellulose derivative, a modified starch, a dextrin, gelatin, shellac, gum arabix, zein, a vegetable gum, a synthetic polymer and any combination thereof.
46. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 40, wherein the outer coating comprises at least one additive component selected from the group consisting of a binding agent, a moisture absorbing component, a film forming agent, a dispersing agent, an antisticking component, a bulking agent, a flavoring agent, a coloring agent, a pharmaceutically or cosmetically active component, a lipid component, a wax component, a sugar and an acid.

47. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 40, wherein the outer coating is a soft coating.

48. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 47, wherein the soft coating comprises a sugar free coating agent.

49. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises conventional chewing gum polymers or resins.

50. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein the at least one biodegradable polymer comprises at least 5% of the chewing gum polymers.

51. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprise at least 25% of the chewing gum polymers.

52. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein all the biodegradable polymers comprised in the chewing gum comprise at least 80% of the chewing gum polymers.

53. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises

- at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer forming a plasticizer of the chewing gum and
- at least one non-biodegradable conventional elastomer.

54. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises

- said at least one biodegradable polyester copolymer forming an elastomer of the chewing gum and
- at least one non-biodegradable conventional natural or synthetic resin.

55. (Previously presented) Chewing gum according to claim 1, wherein said chewing gum comprises

at least one biodegradable elastomer in the amount of about 0.5 to about 70% wt of the chewing gum and

at least one chewing gum ingredient chosen from the group consisting of softeners, sweeteners, flavoring agent, active ingredients and fillers in the amount of about 2 to about 80% wt of the chewing gum.